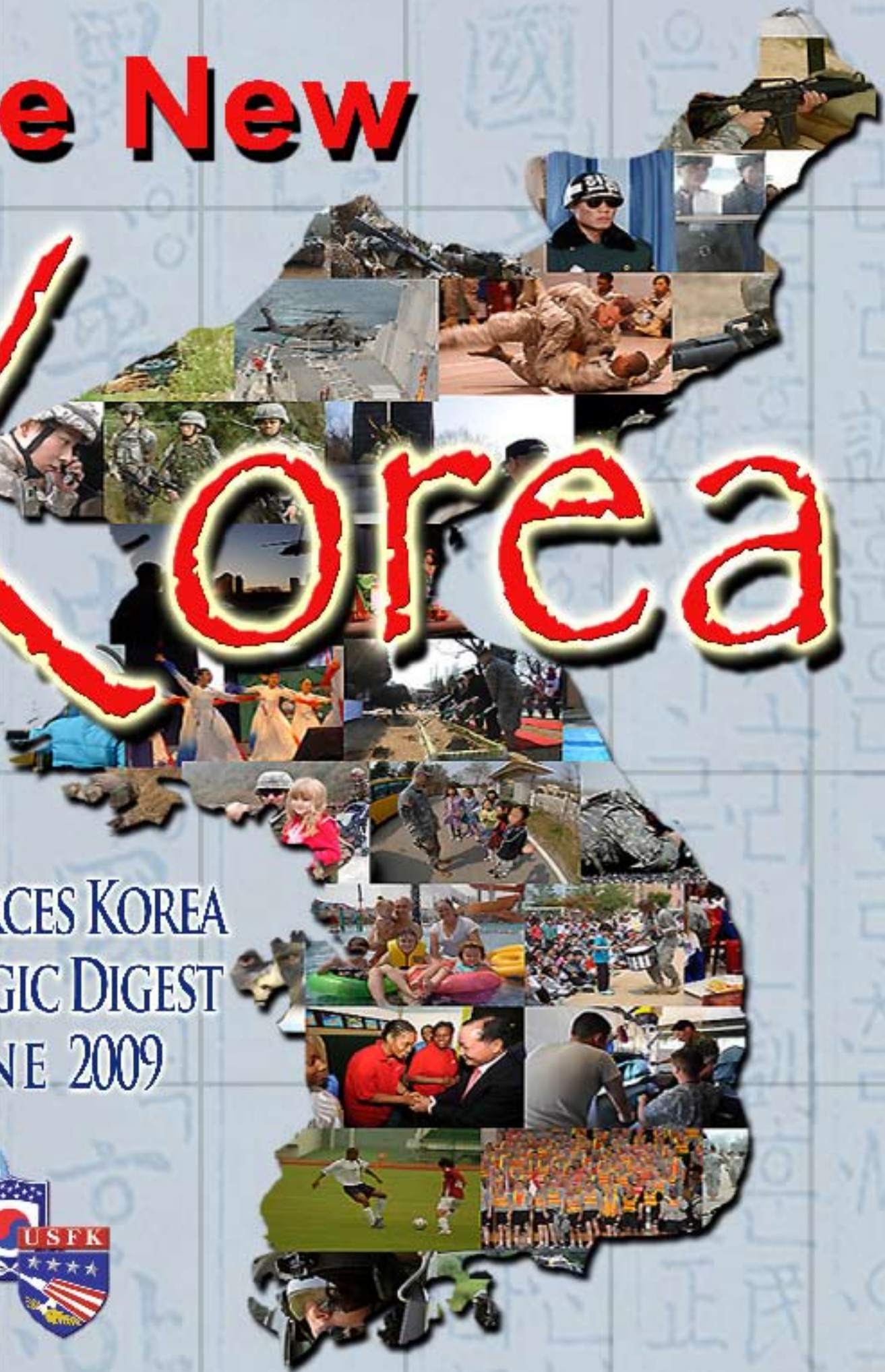


The New

Korea

U.S. FORCES KOREA
STRATEGIC DIGEST
JUNE 2009



FOREWORD FROM UNC/CFC/USFK COMMANDER GEN WALTER L. SHARP

Northeast Asia is one of the most important regions in the world today. The ROK-U.S. Alliance was and remains the pillar that has enabled Northeast Asia to become one of the world's most vibrant and dynamic corners of the world. Over the course of the last 55 years this Alliance has deterred aggression, maintained peace on the Korean peninsula and guaranteed security and stability in this vital region. At the heart of all our initiatives is our firm belief that the ROK-U.S. Alliance remains critical to U.S. interests and must mature to meet the changing global environment.

This Strategic Digest explains the importance of Northeast Asia, outlines the history of the ROK-U.S. Alliance, provides a snapshot of where we are today, and offers an indication of where we are heading in the future. Our future is particularly important since the Alliance is in a period of significant change.

Every action this command takes during this time is done so with our command priorities in mind. Our top priority is to be prepared to fight and win in the defense of the Republic of Korea, a priority that has remained constant throughout the Alliance's history. Our second priority is strengthening this vital Alliance through our actions every day with our Korean hosts. Finally, we are focused on improving the quality of lives for the members of our military and DOD civilian community. Everything we do is tied to these priorities, especially now as we undergo Alliance transformation.

We are working diligently towards transitioning wartime operational control to the Republic of Korea on April 17, 2012. This represents the next step forward in the maturation of the ROK-U.S. Alliance, when the outstanding ROK military assumes the lead role in their nation's defense with the U.S. at its side in a supporting role. We are repositioning



U.S. forces in the Republic of Korea into two enduring hubs to the south of Seoul at Pyongtaek and Daegu. Finally, a shift to longer tours will bring stability to families stationed in Korea, much like other overseas locations.

This ROK-U.S. Alliance has already enjoyed a long and proud history and I am confident that it will only strengthen in the years ahead. I look forward to that next chapter we've only begun to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter L. Sharp".

Commander UNC/CFC/USFK



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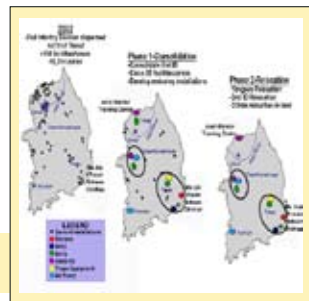
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THE REGION TODAY: KOREA'S STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

NORTHEAST ASIA REGION

Northeast Asia is one of the most dynamic regions in the world today. The region is characterized by its rapid economic growth, the expansion of free market economies over the past half century, the development of democratic states, and being home to some of the world's major security challenges. These factors directly influence regional and global stability, dramatically impacting the national interests of the United States and its allies in the region.

China, Japan, Russia, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and North Korea, make up a historically diverse cultural, economic, and political mix that for the past two millennia has resulted in significant instability and confrontation. The interests of these countries, in their various forms, have frequently clashed and the Korean Peninsula is one of the geographical areas where those interests have resulted in open warfare and other destabilizing events. All Northeast Asian countries possess national priorities that offer both collaborative and confrontational challenges for the United States and its allies.

Northeast Asia is home to four of the world's seven largest militaries and two



nuclear powers in China and Russia. The North Korean conventional military and its quest for nuclear weapons are immediate threats to the U.S. and its allies in the region and compel the ROK-U.S. Alliance's operational strategy of deterrence and defense against North Korean aggression. Nuclear proliferation, transnational

crime, humanitarian challenges, and natural disasters also represent significant concerns to all nations within the region.

However, Northeast Asia also stands today as one of the world's

most prosperous regions. It has transformed

When measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product, Northeast Asia now possesses five of the world's 20 largest economies. China maintains the world's 2nd largest economy, Japan the 3rd, Russia 9th, and the Republic of Korea the 13th.

THE REGION TODAY: KOREA'S STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

from a war-ravaged corner of the world to being home to some of the world's largest economies, while enjoying dramatic economic growth during a half century of unparalleled stability. Other than the failed economic policies of North Korea, each Northeast Asian country has prospered under a stable environment to which the United States has contributed in no small way with its commitment to security and free market economies. This prosperity has dramatically changed each regional country's formula for determining national interests, thus creating a unique and dynamic strategic environment.

When measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product, Northeast Asia now possesses five of the world's 20 largest economies. China maintains the world's 2nd largest economy, Japan the 3rd, Russia 9th, and the Republic of Korea the 13th. As an indicator of how much the region has grown, Northeast Asia now accounts for 24 percent of all global trade, up from less than three percent fifty years ago. To facilitate this economic growth, regional stability is imperative for the interests of the U.S. and its allies in the region. It is an enabler of continued economic prosperity, increased democracy, observance of human rights, and supports socio-political values that complement the societies of the United States and its allies.

The USFK mission and priorities support the achievement of national security principles by focusing on strengthening the Alliance and ensuring regional peace and stability. The USFK mission is to support the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command in defending the Republic of Korea against external aggression and to maintain peace and stability in East Asia. The command's three priorities are to be prepared to fight and win; to strengthen the ROK-U.S.

Alliance; and improve the quality of life for Servicemembers, Department of Defense civilians, and families. The priorities are interdependent and support one another. For example, strengthening the alliance through joint exercises and cultural events ensures the Alliance is more prepared to fight and win in defense of the ROK.

The United States military strategy for Northeast Asia is based on the maintenance of mutual defense and security treaties with the Republic of Korea and Japan, as well as its forward military presence in the region to serve American commitments to those allies. Within that framework, the ROK-U.S. Alliance is a critical component to regional stability that enables regional prosperity.

Northeast Asia will remain one of the world's most important regions for the foreseeable future and the ROK-U.S. Alliance will remain a lynchpin in ensuring it remains peaceful and prosperous.





Demonstrators show their support for the ROK-U.S. Alliance during Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's visit to Seoul February 20, 2009. PHOTO COURTESY SKY.COM

The roots of today's robust Korean-American Alliance date back to the final days of World War II, before the Republic of Korea even existed as a nation. U.S. forces landed on the Korean Peninsula to accept the surrender of the defeated Japanese, ending Tokyo's colonial rule of Korea. Over the next three years, the U.S. military provided the Korean people with a secure environment in which they could elect their own leaders and form their own democratic government, which was inaugurated in August 1948 under President Syngman Rhee.

The young republic was soon put to a severe test when communist North Korea (NK) launched a massive attack in the early morning hours of June 25, 1950 across the 38th parallel latitudinal line, the post-war divider between the two Koreas. The United Nations Security Council responded quickly, passing Resolutions 82, 83 and 84, which called

on United Nation member nations to form United Nations Command (UNC) under U.S. leadership to defend the Republic of Korea. The U.S. and 15 other nations sent combat forces to Korea, and five more nations sent medical staffs.

In July 1950, Syngman Rhee signed the "Pusan Letter" which gave UNC Commander-in-Chief, General Douglas MacArthur, Operational Control (OPCON) of all ROK forces, uniting all allied forces under a single unified command.

During the bitter three-year conflict, more than 33,000 U.S. Servicemembers were killed in action and over 92,000 others wounded; another 8,000 remain unaccounted

During the bitter three-year conflict, more than 33,000 U.S. service members were killed in action and over 92,000 others wounded; another 8,000 remain unaccounted for. Republic of Korea combat deaths exceeded 220,000, with over 700,000 wounded. Civilian Korean deaths on both sides are estimated as high as 2 million. The ROK-U.S. Alliance was literally born in blood.

for. Republic of Korea combat deaths exceeded 220,000, with over 700,000 wounded. Civilian Korean deaths on both sides are estimated as high as 2 million. The ROK-U.S. Alliance was literally born in blood.

After the July 27, 1953 armistice suspended hostilities, Seoul and Washington

THE ROK-U.S. ALLIANCE

signed a Mutual Defense Treaty, ratified in 1954, which authorized the continued stationing of U.S. forces in the ROK by mutual consultation.

Since then, the Alliance has endured hundreds of NK provocations, from armed infiltrations through the heavily defended Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to the landings of hundreds of NK guerrillas along the ROK's East Coast in the late 1960s. Nearly 400 ROK and 100 U.S. Servicemembers have been killed in such encounters with NK combatants.

The United Nations Command continued as the Alliance's warfighting command until 1978, when those responsibilities were taken over by the newly established ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC). The UNC retains its armistice-maintenance responsibilities as well as a critical link to the "UNC Rear" in Japan through which essential military support would flow into the ROK in the event of renewed hostilities.

The bilateral CFC is led via a consultative process which responds to national command authorities on both sides, beginning at the level of the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the ROK Minister of National Defense, and working through the ROK-U.S. Military Committee headed by the ROK and U.S. Chairmen of their respective Joint Chiefs of Staff. CFC, which celebrated the 30th anniversary of its founding last year, continues to plan, allocate resources, train and exercise to meet the high standards which have successfully deterred NK aggression for 55 years.

The ROK has historically provided the majority of the Alliance's troop strength while the U.S. has contributed its cutting edge technology, combining to create a highly trained and motivated force. In recent decades, as the ROK's economy has become increasingly developed and sophisticated, its defense

industries and capabilities have also kept pace allowing the ROK military to steadily modernize its forces.

The ROK military has maintained a relatively consistent manpower level of 600,000 to 700,000 personnel. The U.S., meanwhile, has steadily decreased its presence on the peninsula from 365,000 service members at the end of the Korean War down to the current level of 28,500 in USFK today. This number is expected to remain the same for the foreseeable future. This decrease has been based on the ROK military's growing capacity and capabilities, as well as remarkable technological advancements in both forces.

The steady improvements in the ROK military's manpower, materiel and leadership capabilities led to the bilateral decision for the ROK military to take armistice OPCON over ROK forces in 1994 and an increasingly prominent role in CFC's command structure. The next major step in this continuing progress of the ROK-U.S. Alliance, scheduled for the spring of 2012, is the transition of wartime OPCON to the ROK. Currently, during hostilities, OPCON of the bulk of the ROK fighting force is transferred from the ROK to the CFC Commander. On April 17, 2012 the ROK will be in the lead role in their nation's defense and the U.S. will transition to a robust supporting role should there be an outbreak of hostilities.



THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT

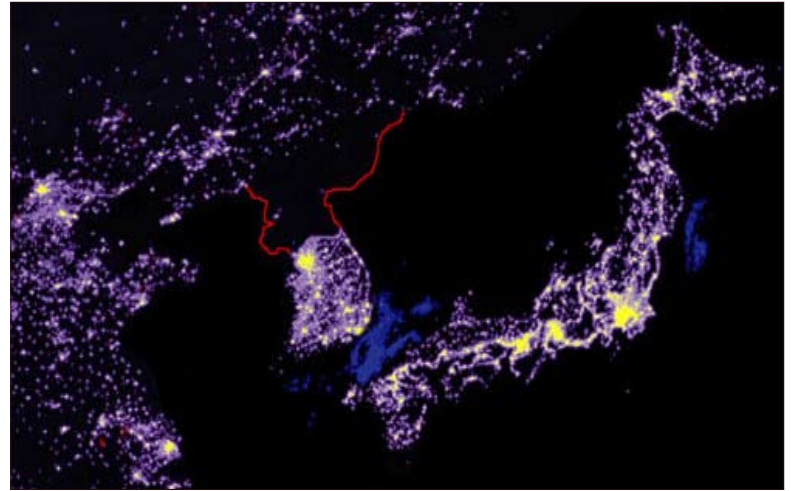
North Korea continues to focus its strategic efforts on regime survival and reunification of the peninsula. Regional experts report that North Korea retains the loyalty of its elites by providing incentives purchased with hard currency raised through money laundering, counterfeiting, drug trafficking and arms sales. To maintain the military's loyalty, North Korea devotes up to one-third of its available resources to maintaining and developing its conventional and asymmetric capabilities.

While periodically participating in the denuclearization process, the regime retains nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programs, both as a deterrent and as its greatest international manipulation tool, leverage exacerbated by the potential export of WMD material and technology. North Korea conducted a nuclear test in October 2006. A second test may have been conducted on May 25, 2009, but had not been verified as of the publication date of this digest.

The intelligence community assesses that North Korea extracted plutonium at its Yongbon nuclear facility and possesses weapons-grade plutonium sufficient for at least a half dozen nuclear devices. North Korea likely sought a uranium enrichment capability for nuclear weapons, at least in the past, and may be maintaining a covert uranium enrichment program today.

According to defense officials and regional experts, North Korea views its ballistic missile programs as a source of prestige, a strategic deterrent, a means of exerting regional

influence, and a source of hard currency. North Korea continues to build missiles of increasing range, lethality and accuracy, thereby bolstering its inventory of missiles available for internal use or external sale, while maintaining up to 800 missiles in its active force. Current intelligence reports show that North Korea is now fielding a new intermediate range ballistic missile and continues to develop and mature systems with a



Satellite imagery of Northeast Asia at night.

global range.

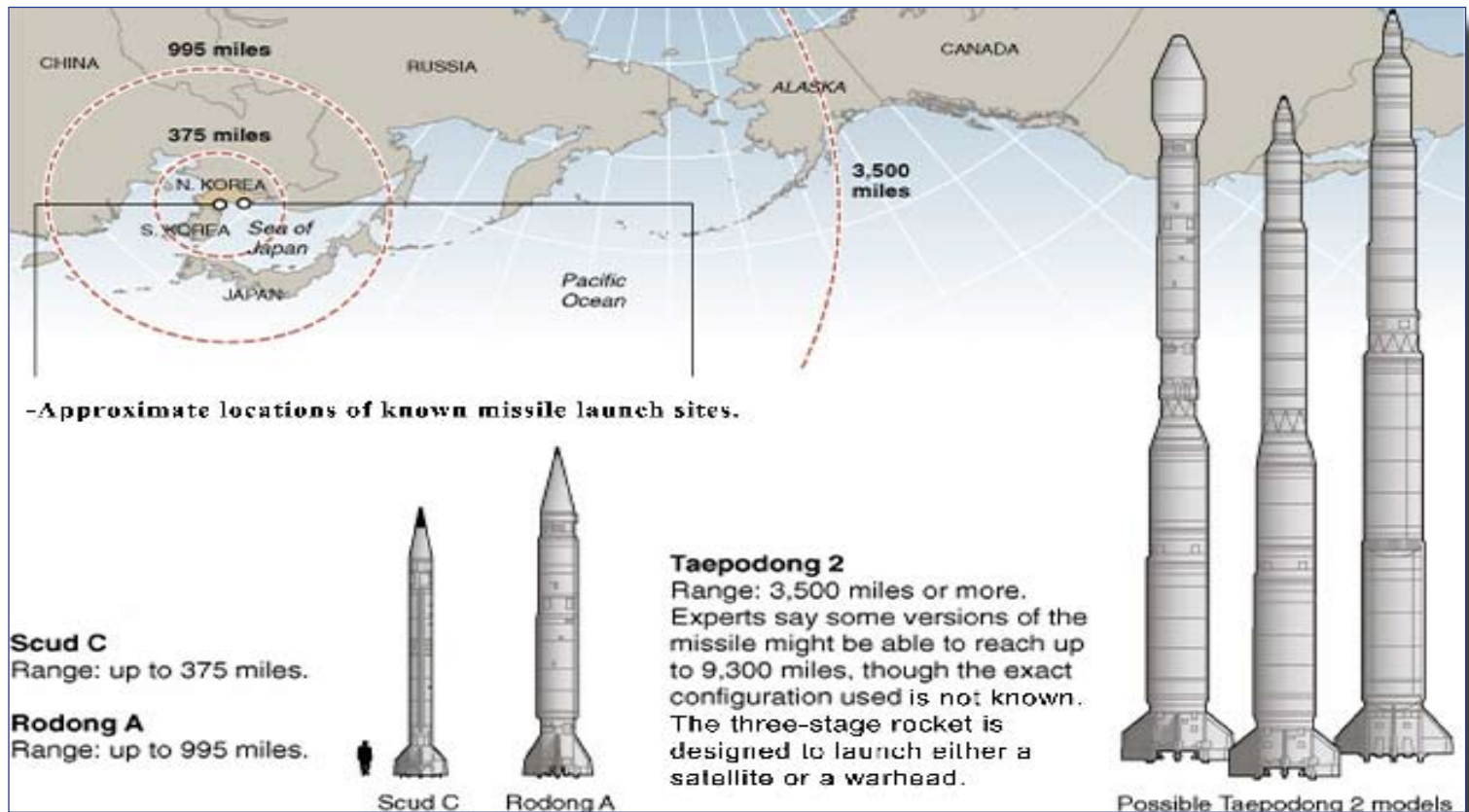
Despite chronic economic shortages which negatively impact training and readiness, North Korea maintains the world's fourth largest armed force with 1.2 million active duty personnel, 5-7 million reserves, 1,700 aircraft, 800 naval vessels and over 13,000 artillery systems. Though outfitted with aging and unsophisticated equipment, 70 percent of North Korea's ground

North Korea continues to build missiles of increasing range, lethality and accuracy, thereby bolstering its inventory of missiles available for internal use or external sale, while maintaining up to 800 missiles in its active force.

forces remain staged within 90 kilometers of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), including approximately 250 long range artillery systems capable of striking the greater Seoul metropolitan

area and its 23 million inhabitants. While

THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT



qualitatively inferior, resource-constrained, and incapable of sustained maneuver, North Korea's military forces retain the capability to inflict lethal, catastrophic destruction. Those forces are well postured to conduct limited attacks or kinetic provocations against the Alliance, as well as its allies and interests in the region, with little or no warning.

North Korea continues to maintain the largest special operations force in the world, comprised of over 80,000 personnel. Among the best resourced forces in North Korea's military, these tough, well-trained, and profoundly loyal troops are capable of conducting strategic reconnaissance, asymmetric attacks against a range of critical civilian infrastructure and military targets across the region and illicit activities.

Military analysts generally agree North Korea is incapable of sustaining a general offensive. However, they do maintain the ability to inflict significant and sudden disruptions through strategic provocations or limited

military attacks, potentially affecting economic and political stability in the region.

North Korea's long-term viability and corresponding stability remain problematic as the regime has shown little tolerance for free market reform, resulting in deteriorating infrastructure and chronically depressed agricultural and industrial sectors. While aware of the depths of its economic crisis and the resulting impact of its endemic dependency on foreign aid for survival, the North Korean regime must now weigh the benefits of increased international interaction and assistance against the risks to its oppressive rule.

North Korea is the primary threat to both ROK and U.S. regional interests. Without an honest commitment to institute fundamental systemic change, the regime will continue to lead a failing state. All of North Korea's rhetoric and anachronistic stances stand as a stark and vivid contrast to the Republic of Korea. Today, the ROK stands proudly as a major player in the region and an influential one in the world.



A night view of the Myong-Dong shopping district of Seoul illustrates the international commerce and vibrance of the Republic of Korea that is a direct result of the on-going ROK-U.S. Alliance.

In August 2008, the ROK celebrated its 60th birthday as a nation. Some foreign veterans of the Korean War who returned to join the celebrations found the modern Korea of the 21st century simply unrecognizable from the war-torn, tattered third-world country they helped defend more than half a century ago.

Crisscrossed with superhighways and high-speed rail lines, Korea today is crowded with high-rise apartments, shopping districts, and industrial complexes. It boasts the world's 13th largest economy, and is a leading manufacturer of semiconductors, automobiles, ships, consumer electronics, mobile phones, steel and chemicals. Korea's economic boom began in

the early 1960s, when President Park Chung-hee (1963-79) launched the first of several ambitious five-year economic development plans. From the beginning, those plans were based primarily on exports. In the resource-poor but densely populated country, export efforts at first emphasized labor-intensive goods. Gradually, building on the nation's almost universally well educated and literate population, they expanded into today's wide range of

From 1962 through 2007, Korea's Gross Domestic Product increased from \$2.3 billion to \$969.9 billion, growing in 2007 at an impressive 5 percent. Its per capita Gross National Income, meanwhile, soared from \$87 to over \$20,000.

sophisticated and internationally competitive products. All these development efforts and accomplishments eventually became known as the

"Miracle on the Han," after the river which bisects the capital city of Seoul. From 1962

A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY: KOREA NOW

through 2007, Korea's Gross Domestic Product increased from \$2.3 billion to \$969.9 billion, growing in 2007 at an impressive 5 percent rate. Its per capita Gross National Income, meanwhile, soared from \$87 to over \$20,000.

Korea's political development caught up with its economic growth in 1987, with the adoption in a national referendum of a new constitution implementing far-reaching democratic reform. That constitution, which remains in effect today, provides for a powerful executive branch, but limits the president to a single five-year term. A unicameral National Assembly is elected every four years, and includes members democratically chosen to reflect the nationwide popularity of each political party. Korean diplomacy also changed dramatically beginning in the late 1980s, as Seoul gradually established relations with the former Soviet bloc, with Russia itself, and with China. Both Koreas finally joined the United Nations in 1991.

The cornerstone of ROK diplomacy over the decades has always been its firm and enduring alliance with the United States, which continues to guarantee the ROK's security under the terms of their 1953 Mutual Defense Treaty. U.S. military aid and advisory assistance to ROK forces have long since given way to foreign military sales of U.S. defense equipment and close cooperation in military strategy, planning, operations and exercises, all overseen by the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command.

The ROK now

maintains diplomatic relations with 188 nations and has signed free trade agreements with 16 countries, boding well for its continuing integration into the international economy. Seoul sponsors a growing foreign aid program, contributing \$680 million in Official Development Aid in 2007, and has participated in several UN Peacekeeping Operations since sending its first battalion of engineers to Somalia in 1993. Several thousand Korean troops served in Iraq during its Zaytun Unit's four-year tour in the northern city of Irbil.



About 23 million of the country's 50 million population lives in or near Seoul and are within North Korean artillery and missile range right now.



CAPABLE AND READY: THE ROK MILITARY

The Republic of Korea military is one of the most progressive and effective defense organizations in the world. Like the U.S. military, it is divided into four major components: Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. It has over 674,000 active and 3.04 million reserve force personnel. The ROK Army is composed of three field armies with 22 active and 25 reserve divisions. Army platforms include over 2300 modern tanks and 680 helicopters.

The Navy is organized into three fleets with approximately 170 ships. The Air Force is composed of nine fighter wings, 27 fighter squadrons, and over 500 attack, fighter and support aircraft. The Marines are composed of two divisions, one brigade, and one amphibious support group.

The major advantages for the ROK military are first class technology operated by a highly skilled force; a self-sufficient national economy able to provide outstanding training and equipment for its troops; and its own equipment facilities that produce everything from individual soldier weapons to ships. Currently, the Republic of Korea dedicates approximately 2.6% (\$26 billion) of its annual Gross Domestic Product to national defense.

Like the U.S. and Western Europe, the ROK has been conducting military transformation. In 2005, the Korean National Assembly approved Defense Reform Plan 2020 and the National Defense Reform Act. The final result will be a faster moving force that can operate more precisely in an ever changing global environment. This includes a force that relies less on manpower and more on technology. With this comes a shift from the fixed and slow moving force focused on threat

based situations, to a rapid deployable force based upon its own capabilities.

Defense Reform Plan 2020 includes downsizing of the military force that will reduce the active components to 500,000 personnel and the reserve components to 1.5 million (by 27% and 52% respectively). The expenses saved in personnel will be dedicated to technology. The Korean government has made great strides

in transforming its Ministry of National Defense (MND). Part of this transformation

effort involves having a higher percentage of civilian employees. This increase allows for greater institutional knowledge. To further support that knowledge, civil servants attend courses at the country's National Defense University. Meanwhile, in addition to attending its own outstanding schools, many of the ROK's military officers are trained in the advanced service schools and war colleges of the United States military.

The ROK military serves as an example of success that can be achieved by a military firmly dedicated to serving and supporting their democratic government. The ROK has made huge strides since the U.S. came to its defense in time of war. Since 1953, the ROK has rapidly progressed in developing a solid economy, an outstanding democratic government, and a strong military.



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CAPABLE AND READY: THE ROK MILITARY



(Above) The improved U-2S Dragon Lady aircraft taxis to the runway at Osan Air Base, South Korea, followed by a high-performance chase car. The Defense Reform Plan of 2020 includes focusing ROK defense spending on technological capabilities that will no longer rely as heavily on U.S. systems. PHOTO COURTESY U.S. AIR FORCE STAFF SGT. ANDREA KNUDSON.



(Above, left) The XK-2, Korea's new main battle tank, is unveiled March 2007 at Changwon, Korea and is scheduled to go into mass production in 2010. (Right) DDH-991-Sejongdaewang, a ROK *King Sejong the Great* class Destroyer launches January 9, 2008 with enhanced Aegis combat system capabilities. It is representative of the third phase of the ROK Navy's Korean Destroyer Experimental (KDX) program, a substantial shipbuilding program geared towards further enhancing the ROKN capabilities.



(Above, left) ROK F-15K Slam Eagle fighter jets of the ROKAF 122nd Fighter Squadron arrive at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada to participate in Red Flag 08-04 this past October. (Right) A Soldier of 8th Army's 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade inspects a Patriot missile system at Osan Air Base. The ROK has recently re-initiated its purchase program of Patriot systems similar to this one. PHOTO COURTESY HEIKE HAUSENAUER OF SOLDIERS MAGAZINE.

COMMAND PRIORITIES

The UNC/CFC/USFK Commander, General Walter Sharp, established three priorities for the command. These priorities have remained constant and serve as the guiding principles for all of the command's key initiatives. As initiatives are developed and implemented, they are done in accordance with and in support of these three priorities.

Priority #1: Be Prepared to Fight and Win

This has been the primary priority for U.S. forces stationed in Korea for more than 58 years and for Combined Forces Command since it stood up in 1978. It is the primary reason U.S. forces remain in Korea, the nonnegotiable contract with the American and Korean people. Nothing else is more important than keeping this the top priority.

In accordance with this priority, both U.S. and ROK Servicemembers maintain their warfighting skills through tough, realistic training and theater level exercises that leverage all available ROK and U.S. training facilities and ranges. The command conducts two annual exercises, Key Resolve/Foal Eagle and Ulchi Freedom Guardian. These exercises enable Servicemembers to hone the skills necessary to fight and win right now even while preparing for the future. They also enable the command to continually update and improve existing war plans as the environment changes, providing adaptive planning and flexibility.

Another area of focus under this priority is combined warfighting, which is particularly important in an alliance environment. The ROK and U.S. forces are a combined joint team ready to fight together with a clear understanding

of each others' capabilities and roles. This command's first priority will not change as long as there remains a threat to the security of the Republic of Korea.

Priority #2: Strengthen the Alliance

The ROK-U.S. Alliance is one of the most important alliances in the world and a cornerstone to peace and security in Northeast Asia. Because of its significance, the command focuses on ensuring that the Alliance remains strong. A key initiative under this priority is

OPCON transition and the planning and preparations both ROK and U.S. forces are taking to be prepared for this major change in the ROK-U.S. Alliance

(see page 13). Both ROK and U.S. forces have designed a challenging exercise program to ensure all forces are ready for OPCON transition.

One way this is accomplished is through the Good Neighbor Program. The program is based on several pillars. One pillar has been to provide all Servicemembers with training in Korean culture and history when they initially arrive and to reinforce that training during the tour. Other pillars include the community relations program; military-to-military relationships; and programs involving Korean and American students.

Another key initiative, Tour Normalization (see page 17) will also strengthen the Alliance. Normalizing tours strengthens the Alliance by increasing combat capabilities through continuity and reducing rotational stress on our troops. It also signals U.S. national commitment to the ROK and strengthens the Good Neighbor Program by forging lifelong friendships

-Priority #1: Be Prepared to Fight and Win

-Priority #2: Strengthen the Alliance

-Priority #3: Improve the Quality of Life

COMMAND PRIORITIES



An aerial shot of the Humphreys Garrison near Pyeongtaek City about 45 miles south of Seoul shows new residential housing facilities already completed. More residential housing and support structures will be completed in the upcoming years as USFK activities and Servicemembers relocate to the area. PHOTOS COURTESY IMCOM-K PUBLIC AFFAIRS

between Republic of Korea and U.S. families.

Priority #3: Improve Quality of Life for USFK Community

The command's third priority is to improve the quality of life of Servicemembers, DoD civilians, and family members. The overall goal is to make Korea the military station of choice.

There are several efforts that directly support the drive to improve quality of life. The most important effort is Tour Normalization which will enable all U.S. Servicemembers to serve in Korea for two or three years alongside their families, ending unnecessary family separations. The command is also working to improve facilities and housing by moving to two primary "hubs" of enduring installations which will have top-notch facilities. The command also remains focused on expanding and improving schools and health care, employment opportunities for spouses, and increased support for and access

to families back in the U.S.

All of these key initiatives support the command's three priorities. They are keeping the command focused as it carries out Alliance Transformation.



ROK and U.S. Special Forces train together near the DMZ. Priority #1 for USFK is always to be prepared to fight and win tonight on the Korean Peninsula.

OPCON TRANSITION



Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, left, and Republic of Korea Minister of National Defense Lee Sang-Hee sign The War Time Reserve Stockpile for Allies-Korea Transfer Memorandum of Agreement after a meeting at the Pentagon, Oct. 17, 2008. This agreement, and other bi-lateral defense initiatives to include OPCON transition, were reaffirmed at the meeting. Transition of OPCON to the ROK has been agreed upon by both nations to take place on April 17, 2012. DOD PHOTO BY U.S. NAVY PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS MOLLY A. BURGESS

Operational Control of Republic of Korea military forces has been constantly evolving over the 55-year history of the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

With the creation of ROK-U.S. CFC in 1978, the lead role for defense and control of ROK military forces was transferred from UNC to CFC.

Under the CFC construct, ROK and U.S. national command authorities provide direction and guidance to the commander of CFC.

The evolution of ROK military control continued to evolve in 1994, where the ROK

and U.S. governments agreed to return armistice control of ROK military forces to the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). Wartime OPCON Transition is the next logical step in the natural maturation of the Alliance and the rightful expression of Korea's national sovereignty. The October

Wartime operational control transition is the next logical step in the natural maturation of the Alliance and the rightful expression of Korea's national sovereignty.

2006 decision to transition wartime OPCON from the ROK-U.S. CFC to the ROK JCS is a bilateral agreement

between ROK and U.S. presidents. The Strategic Transition Plan (STP) is the result of the strategic guidance provided by the 38th

OPCON TRANSITION

Security Consultative Meeting and is the ROK-U.S. roadmap to get to OPCON Transition, which will take place on April 17, 2012. The plan summarizes key specified tasks needed to develop appropriate ROK and U.S. organizations, plans, processes and systems for the future Alliance military structure.

Two separate and complementary national commands will be created: ROK JCS and U.S. Korea Command (KORCOM). U.S. military forces will be under the operational control of the KORCOM commander. ROK military forces will be under the operational control of the ROK JCS Chairman. CFC will be deactivated. The U.S. and ROK national commands will function in a doctrinally supporting to supported relationship with U.S. KORCOM in support of ROK JCS.

After OPCON transition is complete in 2012, the U.S. will remain committed to a long-term presence in Korea and the region. The modification of the ROK defense structure will not reduce the U.S. commitment. Security and stability on the peninsula are not a function of command and control relationships, but rather a function of the ROK-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty and the national commitments to each other.

ROK and U.S. forces use the annual Key Resolve (KR) and Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) exercises to test, refine and evaluate the future command structures. KR is primarily used to maintain current 'fight tonight' CFC readiness. UFG is primarily used to exercise and refine the future command structure. In August 2011, a complete dress rehearsal of ROK JCS and KORCOM will be conducted during UFG.

In conducting OPCON transition, the ROK-U.S. Alliance is ensuring and enhancing the defense of the ROK and the stability of the region. This new relationship empowers

the ROK government to assume primary responsibility for the command and control of its own forces.

The formation of two separate commands will not impair coordination within the Alliance. Despite the disestablishment of CFC, the current Alliance strategic coordination and consultative processes will remain unchanged. Coordination between ROK and U.S. forces will occur at all echelons through the use of dedicated liaison officers. When operational requirements dictate more robust coordination, ROK and U.S. forces will use coordination centers and cells. The centers and cells are critical to ensure the ROK and U.S. commands have the same Theater Common Operating Picture.

United Nations Command will continue to provide a coalition of nations prepared to build a large force during a time of crisis with 15 active member nations. UNC remains committed to the Korean War Armistice Agreement and is the most visible manifestation of international commitment to security and stability on the peninsula. The institutions and organizations created by this armistice continue to diffuse tensions and prevent a recurrence of hostilities.

Regardless of the command and control shift, the ROK-U.S. Mutual Security Alliance will continue to be a pillar of stability in Northeast Asia. The future capabilities of ROK and U.S. forces will strengthen the Alliance and significantly improve the defense and security of the ROK and the Pacific Theater.



REPOSITIONING OF FORCES

The ROK and U.S. governments have agreed to the consolidation and relocation of U.S. forces stationed in Korea into two enduring hubs south of Seoul; a Southwest and Southeast hub. The Southwest hub (Osan and Humphreys) is to be the centerpiece of the future U.S. force structure in Korea. It is already home to 7th Air Force Headquarters and will become home to the future U.S. Korea Command (KORCOM), Eighth United States Army (EUSA) HQ, and Second Infantry Division as U.S. forces realign south of the Han River. The Southeast hub (Daegu, Chinhae, and Busan) functions as a logistics distribution center and storage for wartime / contingency preposition stocks. The two hubs will be developed by transforming existing bases, camps, and garrisons into world class enduring installations; making

Korea “The Assignment of Choice.”

Two major ROK/ U.S. bilateral agreements enable

the consolidation and relocation effort: the 2002 **Land Partnership Plan (LPP)** and the 2004 **Yongsan Relocation Plan (YRP)**. The LPP consolidates and relocates U.S. forces (excluding forces from the Seoul Metropolitan Area), provides U.S. forces dedicated time on Korean training areas and ranges, and ensures safety easements are provided and enforced. The YRP agreement relocates a majority of U.S. forces and HQ United Nations Command (UNC) activities from around Seoul into United States Army Garrison (USAG) Humphreys. The YRP agreement also calls for a residual force to remain in Seoul to support UNC Military Armistice Commission’s (UNCMAC) operations

and to facilitate communications and maintain existing partnerships with the ROK and other government and non-government agencies in the Seoul area.

The implementation of these plans will be done in two phases, Phase 1 Consolidation and Phase 2 Relocation.

The ROK-U.S. Alliance is currently in Phase 1. The U.S. has reduced the force by 8,000 personnel and closed 18 of 31 camps. The U.S. has expedited the return of 16 of the 18 closed installations, returning over 12,800 acres to the ROK. In turn, the ROK has completed the purchase of over 2,700 acres of land, directly supporting the U.S. relocation. The ROK government has granted an initial 912 acres of land at USAG Humphreys, enabling the ROK-U.S. Alliance to begin designing, planning, and

coordinating over \$10B worth of construction. The majority of the funds required for land, facilities, moving services, and other expenses directly

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related to the YRP implementation will be provided by the ROK, while the costs of LPP are to be shared between the U.S. and ROK.

Approximately \$335M of facilities and infrastructure are under construction at USAG Humphreys with an additional \$2B of facilities and infrastructure under design. The major facilities that will be constructed are: medical facilities (hospital, dental clinic, and troop medical clinics); headquarters facilities (KORCOM, EUSA, 2ID, Installation Management Command-Korea); family housing and schools; communications center; and the operational and support facilities necessary to relocate the 2ID.

REPOSITIONING OF FORCES

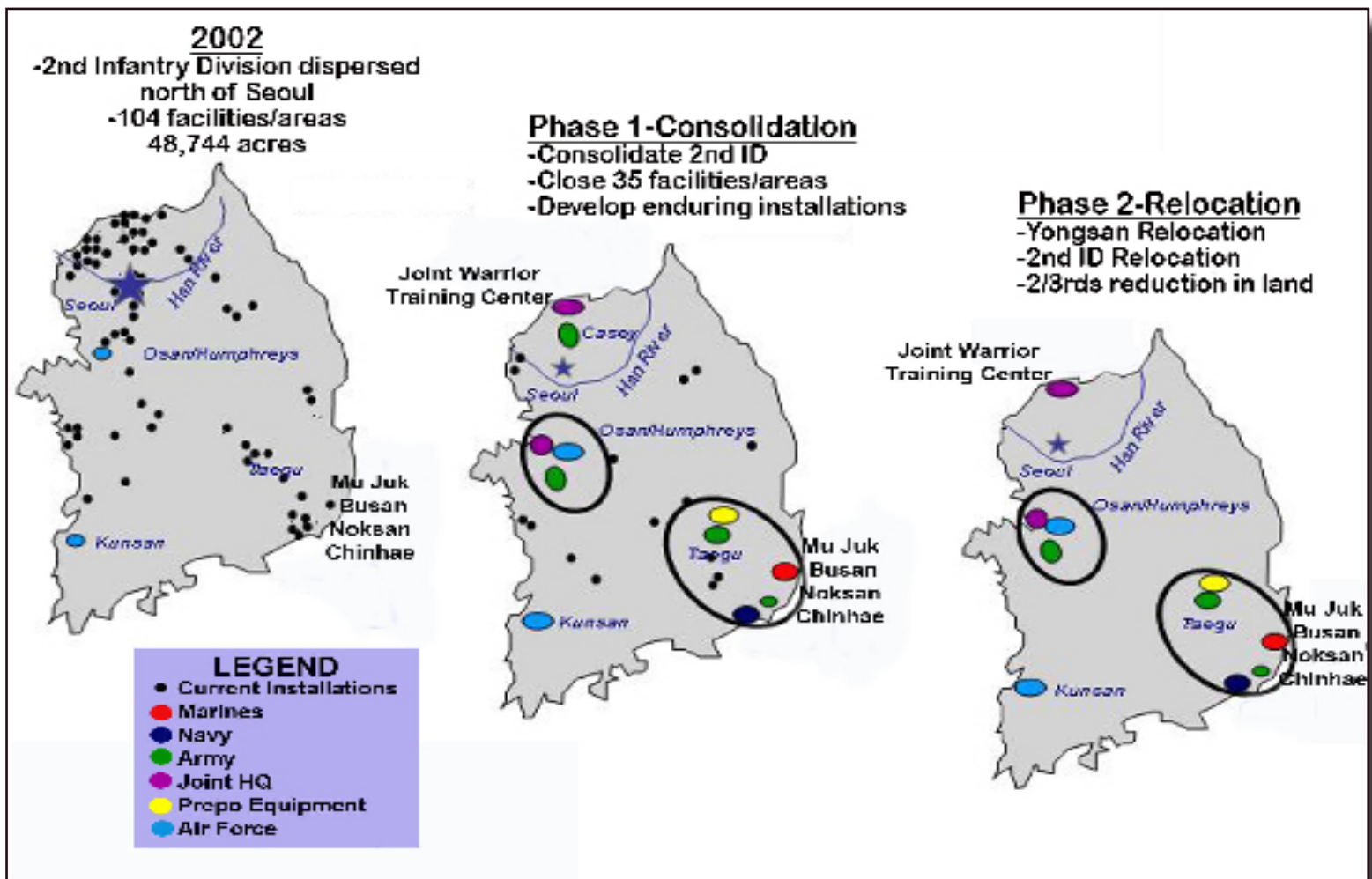
The success of the planned relocation is predicated upon sustaining the U.S. force's readiness to "fight tonight." Unit moves will be packaged and moved in manageable components. Throughout the realignment, units will maintain their full spectrum of operational and support capabilities. The end goal becomes a win-win for the Alliance as it optimizes ROK/U.S. use of land and enhances U.S. force protection, readiness, quality of life, safety and the ROK/U.S. mutual defense.

In summary, U.S. priorities remain focused on transforming to meet future security demands and to strengthen the ROK-U.S. Alliance. Critical to the strategy is the

transformation and consolidation of forces. The repositioning of U.S. forces is a major signal of continued U.S. military commitment to the ROK and the Alliance. The consolidation of these forces increases readiness, efficiencies and cost savings; enhances quality of life; increases training opportunities; and offers a less intrusive presence.



Shown below are the phases of USFK's realignment of U.S. forces on the Korean peninsula. The phases show a consolidated span of initiatives that relocates the majority of forces south of Seoul. USFK will complete movement to two enduring hubs and a joint training facility to the north. Second Infantry Division and Yongsan Garrison will relocate to USAG Humphreys.



TOUR NORMALIZATION

The Department of Defense approved USFK's request to normalize tours in Korea on December 1, 2008. Tour Normalization means that Servicemembers can now serve in Korea for two or three years and bring their families with them. The new policy will mainly affect incoming Servicemembers, but those already stationed in Korea can apply for the extended accompanied tours. It is estimated it will take ten to 15 years to reach full Tour Normalization in Korea. USFK will achieve Tour Normalization in three phases. Phase I is immediate, Phase II is interim and Phase III is the desired end state.

Phase I (Immediate): As a first step toward Tour Normalization, USFK will roughly double the number of command-sponsored slots in the next year - to 4,320 in Seoul, Osan, Pyeongtaek, Daegu and Chinhae. These five locations will increase the number of command sponsored families and increase tour lengths from 24 months to 36 months while two additional locations (Dongducheon and Uijeongbu known as Area I) will offer 24-month accompanied tours. Although standard overseas tours will be Korea-wide, there will remain a few possible exceptions by location. During this transition period, Servicemembers in Area I will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding regarding Limited Family Member Service Support Facilities when accepting an accompanied tour. In order to jump start Phase I, three-year accompanied tours in Pyeongtaek, Osan, Daegu, Chinhae, or Seoul and two-year accompanied tours in Area I will receive incentive packages.

Phase II (Interim): The second phase of Tour Normalization projects growth to 5,700 families representing 35% of Servicemembers accompanied by their families in Korea. During the transition period, between 2011 and 2016, DoD organizations and families in Dongducheon and Uijeongbu will move to new locations



The strength of the military lies in the strength of the military family. Tour normalization would allow more Servicemembers assigned to Korea to keep their families together.

further south (USAG Humphreys). Kunsan will also undergo major infrastructure development to support Tour Normalization. Medical primary care capacity will be available with incremental increases in staffing to match population growth. Servicemembers and their dependents affected by relocation will be moved to their new duty station at government expense.

Phase III (Endstate): There is overlap between Phase II and Phase III in terms of facility, infrastructure and growth from 4,320 military families to 14,250 military families. Infrastructure will be in place by endstate for all five family service support locations (called Enduring Enclaves) located at Pyeongtaek, Osan, Daegu, Kunsan, and Chinhae. At endstate, all Servicemembers stationed in South Korea will be on two or three year tours and all will be offered command sponsorship .

Tour Normalization benefits the command, Servicemembers and their families and overall interests of the U.S. It improves readiness by keeping trained Servicemembers in place for longer periods of time improving continuity, stability and retention of cultural knowledge. Tour Normalization also strengthens the Alliance by encouraging more meaningful interaction between U.S. and Korean citizens. Finally, Tour Normalization demonstrates continued U.S. commitment to a stronger and visible long-term relationship with the Republic of Korea.

FUTURE OF THE ALLIANCE

As we head into the 21st Century, the ROK-U.S. Alliance is engaged in the largest and most profound transformation since the end of the Korean War. This transformation will serve to strengthen the ROK-U.S. Alliance, enabling that Alliance to remain the pillar of stability both on the Korean Peninsula and throughout the Northeast Asia Region.

The ROK-U.S. Alliance remains the key stabilizing force in the region, helping to facilitate economic growth while providing the secure and peaceful environment conducive to steady economic expansion across the region. The U.S. partnership with the Republic of Korea will continue to evolve to ensure the

Alliance is poised to remain the vanguard for peace and stability well into the future.

For the United States, the Northeast Asia Region will continue to be viewed as a crucial strategic area for American trade and commerce. One quarter of the world's

Commitment to continued regional stability is illustrated by the shared principal in ROK-U.S. Alliance Transformation that there will be no degradation in the Alliance's ability to deter or defend against North Korean aggression.

economic output is generated in Northeast Asia and the ROK is the United States' seventh-largest trading partner. U.S. trade alone in the region exceeds over \$500 billion annually.

When the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) gets ratified by the ROK and U.S. respectively, it will further solidify and advance Northeast Asia as a U.S. vital interest area.

Moreover, the critical, ongoing

U.S. forces are transforming to meet challenges to regional stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Valiant Shield 2007 is one of a number of exercises conducted in the Pacific, both joint and combined, that hones our military capability and brings together joint forces in response to any regional contingency.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PACOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS



FUTURE OF THE ALLIANCE

transformation of the Alliance, including the transition of wartime OPCON from CFC to the Republic of Korea, along with additional upgrades in new technology and capabilities, will enable a new, more strategic approach guaranteeing regional stability well into the 21st century.

As part of the transformation effort, United Nations Command will continue to provide a coalition of 15 nations with authority to build to a larger force to provide additional support in defense of the Republic of Korea when and if needed. UNC is also pursuing initiatives to encourage UNC sending states to participate in ROK-U.S. exercises and other transformation efforts.

Underpinning this new strategy is the shared principle of the ROK-U.S. Alliance Transformation that there will be no degradation in the Alliance's ability to deter or defend against any aggression not only on the Korean Peninsula but also in the Northeast Asia Region.

It is this vision of a "Global Strategic Alliance," as agreed in the 2008 ROK-U.S. presidential summits that represents the future view of the Alliance. The ROK-U.S. Alliance is one of the most important and longstanding alliances in the world today because of its rock-solid foundation. It is built on mutual respect and friendship, a shared history, and similar core values and national interests. The fundamental purpose for engaging in transformation is to strengthen this strategic alliance and posture it for the future. Efforts to develop additional capability in areas such as disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, or maritime search and rescue with regional

partners such as China, Russia and Japan is also much more likely in the transformed ROK-U.S. Alliance of the 21st Century.

The decisions and policies implemented today will ensure the success of this region. The future is now in The New Korea!

For nearly 5000 years of Northeast Asian history, Korea has been a lynchpin in this region's development and future. With the past as prologue, this will

continue into the 21st century and beyond. The decisions and policies implemented today will ensure the success of this region. The future is now in The New Korea!





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A tour in The New Korea promises a rich and rewarding experience both personally and professionally.

